



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY:

BEING

THE HISTORY

WITH A COLOURED REPRESENTATION

Of every known Species of

BRITISH BIRDS.

BY GEORGE GRAVES,

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY,

Assisted by several eminent Ornithologists.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

BY STEPHEN COUCHMAN, THROGMORTON-STREET;

AND SOLD BY

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1813.

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Sturnus vulgaris.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth April 1782.

STURNUS VULGARIS.

STARLING.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight.

Tongue cleft.

Legs strong, covered with a few large scales.

Toes three forward, one backward, the centre connected to the outer one as far as the first joint.

SYNONYMS.

STURNUS VULGARIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 290. 1. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 321. 1.

STARLING. *Br. Zool.* 1. 104. *tab.* 46. *Ib. fol. tab.* P. 2.

fig. 1. Arct. Zool. 2. p. 331. *A. Latb.*

Syn. 3. p. 2. Ib. Supt. p. 137. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's British Birds, Pt. 1. p. 110.

THIS Bird is about nine inches in length and thirteen in breadth, and weighs nearly three ounces and a half; bill sharp, an inch and a quarter long; gape extending beyond the eye; irides light hazel; tail short, composed of twelve feathers; legs and claws strong. Colours alike in both sexes.

The STARLING is common in most parts of this country, it is gregarious, associating in immense numbers with rooks, crows, or pigeons; like them it resorts to new sown land, where it destroys large quantities of worms and grubs, feeds also on grain and most kinds of insects; whilst on the ground it frequently utters a shrill whistle; it does not hop, but runs on the ground in the manner of the Lark genus.

It

It builds a loose nest composed of dry grass, and lays five or six light blue eggs; the nest is usually placed under the roofs of extensive buildings, sometimes in holes in ruined walls, and less frequently in hollow trees. Its flight is regular, in the winter season it migrates from the more northern parts of Europe, but generally retires on the break-up of the frost; when in flock these birds fly in circles, still continuing to make progressive advancement.

Except in the breeding season, it usually roosts in marshes, before sitting down for the night, the whole body fly round the spot for a considerable time, and they all alight in an instant, after which for a short time they continue to make a chattering noise, which also ceases very suddenly, and no more is heard of them unless disturbed; to guard against surprise one is usually placed on an eminence to give alarm, which it does by a particular note, on hearing of which, the whole flock immediately take wing and but seldom return for some days to the place where they have been roused.

Provincial names, Stare, Chepster, and Chep-Starling.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.

DS



Tadorna clypeata!

Pub. by G. Graves Wetherby April, 1. 1812.

ANAS CLYPEATA.

S H O V E L E R.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus* (ferus.)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CLYPEATA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 200. 19. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 856. 60.

SHOVELER. *Br. Zool.* 280. *Ib. fol.* 155. *tab. Q.* 4.
Arct. Zool. 2. 485. *Lath. Syn.* 6.
p. 509. 55. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2.
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 310.

THIS beautifully marked species is in length about twenty-one inches, and weighs twenty-two ounces. Bill three inches long, the tip is nearly two inches broad, edges strongly pectinated; nail somewhat hooked; irides yellow; tail composed of fourteen feathers; feet broad and strong. The female differs considerably in colour, and with the exception of the blue on the wing, in the general appearance is much like the female pintail; the length one inch less than the male.

The SHOVELER does not breed in this country, though it is said some "remain in France during the breeding season; that they make a nest of rushes, in which they lay ten or a dozen rufous-coloured eggs." On the approach of winter

the

the bird makes its appearance in this country, frequently arriving as early as the first week in October ; the principal resorts of the species are the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridge ; from the Isle of Ely, they are very frequently sent with other species of wild fowl to our London markets.

Its habits are solitary and wild, seldom being met with in companies, as most of the other species are ; it dives on the slightest alarm, and retreats to a great distance, this may be considered as the most shy of the whole tribe ; it usually leaves Great-Britain the first week in March, though this season we observed a pair exposed for sale as late as the twenty-fourth of that month. Its flesh is generally held in high esteem, as being equal if not superior to that of the common wild-duck.

Provincial names Blue-winged Shoveler, Spoon-Bill, Broad-Bill, and Kertlutock.



Iynax. Torquilla.

Pl. 5. by G. Graves Woburn April 1778.

JYNX TORQUILLA.

W R Y N E C K.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill round and somewhat incurvated.

Nostrils bare.

Tongue long, slender, cylindrical, and terminated with an horny substance.

Toes two forward and two backward.

Tail composed of ten flexible feathers.

SYNONYMS.

JYNX TORQUILLA. *Lin. Syft.* 1. p. 172. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 223: 1.

WRYNECK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 83. *Ib. fol.* 80. *tab. F. G.* *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 267. *B. Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 548. *tab. 24.* *Ib. supt.* p. 103. *Monit. Orn. Diet. Vol.* 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 136.

THE length of this bird is seven inches, breadth about eleven, it weighs three quarters of an ounce; bill three-fourths of an inch long; irides light blood colour; feathers on the crown of the head erectile; toes and claws very strong. Colours alike in both sexes.

This

This elegant species most generally frequents woods and orchards, where it may frequently be observed running up the branches of trees in search of insects; these it secures by means of its tongue, which is covered with a thick viscid exudation, which completely secures such insects as come in contact with it; ants and their eggs are eagerly sought after as a favourite food of this bird; it resorts to the ant-hills, into the crevices of which it introduces its tongue, which easily penetrates by having its tip of a harder substance than the other parts; the insects being thus roused endeavour to escape, but such as endeavour to cross the tongue are sure to adhere and are immediately drawn out and devoured.

The Wryneck makes its nest in the hole of a tree, at the bottom of which, little else is to be found than the decayed parts of the tree, on these it lays eight or ten beautiful semi-transparent white eggs; during the time of incubation it is very tenacious of its retreat, and if an attempt be made to molest it, boldly strikes at the offender with its bill; at this time it erects its crest, and utters a loud hissing noise, and should the male bird be at hand, it will frequently flutter round the intruder, uttering a piercing scream not unlike that of the Kestrel Hawk; it is also observed to make this call on its first arrival in this country, but usually discontinues it as soon as the female begins to sit.

The name of Wryneck has been given to this bird from its continual habit of writhing and twisting its neck, particularly when alarmed, its tongue is thrust out, and it continues these motions for an hour together whilst disturbed.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the haunts of this species are usually confined to the neighbourhood of large trees, we have found it under such circumstances as to be induced to believe it sometimes breeds on extensive commons among furze; we shot one which proved a female, from off a little clump of furze, which had nearly lost all the breast feathers through incubating; almost immediately after we sprung the male, who continued to fly round us, and screamed for a great length of time while we were searching after the nest, which we were not so fortunate as to find, but from the continued anxiety displayed by the male we have no doubt was near the spot.

Few birds are more likely to escape general notice than the present, as when at rest it is hardly to be discerned from the tree whereon it is fixed, by reason of its colours approximating so nearly with the surrounding objects.

It usually precedes the cuckoo a week or ten days, and is known (from this circumstance) in parts by the name of Cuckoo's mate, besides which it is called Snake-Bird, Long-Tongue, Emmet-Hunter, and Hissing-Bird.



Strix sculptilis?

Pub. by G. Graves, Newmarket May, 2.5.

STRIX STRIDULA.

TAWNY OWL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Strix Bubo*.

SYNONYMS.

STRIX STRIDULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 133. 9. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 58. 25.

TAWNY OWL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 68. *Ib. fol.* 7. *tab. B. fig.* 3. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 237. *B. Mont. Orn. Dict.* 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 91.

STRIX ALUCO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 130. 7. *Ind. Orn.* 2. 59. 26.

BROWN OWL. *Br. Zool.* 69. *tab. 32.* *Ib. fol.* p. 72. *tab. B. fig.* 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 125. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2.*

ALUCO OWL. *Lath. Syn.* p. 134. 20.

LENGTH of this species nearly fourteen inches, breadth two feet seven inches, weight fifteen ounces. Bill strong, about an inch and a quarter in length, much hooked; eyes very dark, they are larger in this than in any other British species, and are surrounded with hair like feathers, which have their shafts projecting half an inch beyond the webs; legs strong, and covered with feathers to the toes; claws sharp and strong, when the foot is distended, it covers a space nearly three inches square; tail composed of twelve feathers. Both sexes agree

in

in colour. The female exceeds considerably in size, being seventeen inches long and two feet ten inches wide, and weighing nineteen ounces.

The Tawny is the most common of the British Owls, it resorts to woods, and particularly to plantations of fir, where it conceals itself during the day ; at the approach of night it makes its appearance, and is easily distinguished from all its congeners by its hooting, which noise it makes both when on wing and at rest, besides which it frequently utters a harsh screaming note. This is the only species known to hoot.

Owing to the size of the pupil of the eye, this species is unable to endure the light of day, and should it be disturbed or made to take wing in the day-time, it flies frequently against trees, and we have known one to fly with such force against the side of a barn, as to bring it to the ground, quite stunned with the violence of the blow.

It breeds in the decayed hollows of trees, and sometimes in barns and ruined edifices, its nest is of a very slight texture, and composed of such soft materials as the place may afford ; when it lays in the holes of trees, the eggs are mostly deposited on the decayed wood without any nest : it lays two or three opaque dusky white eggs, which are of a “ roundish form.” The young are easily brought up by hand, and are very useful in barns or granaries, being most excellent mousers ; they are at first covered with light-coloured down.

The food of this, like most other species, consists of young hares and rabbits, rats, mice, and pigeons, in quest of the latter

latter it is frequently known to enter pigeon-houses. In the cavity of a tree where this bird had bred, were found among its castings, the head and bones of some species of snake.

Mr. PENNANT has described a variety of this bird as a distinct species, under the name of the Brown Owl; authors have held different opinions, some regarding the brown variety as the female. Mr. MONTAGUE however mentions that he has killed them both from the same nest, consequently he considers them as mere varieties; in confirmation of which, we can state, that in the early part of last year (1811) a pair, the one brown and the other tawny, were shot from the nest, which was formed in the hollow of an old pollard, on Dulwich-Common; the brown one on dissection proved to be the male.

Provincial names, Ivy-Owl, Wood-Owl, Hooting-Owl, Screech-Owl, and Howlet.



Falco berigora.

FALCO AERUGINOSUS.

MOOR BUZZARD.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO AERUGINOSUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 130. 29. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 25. 53.

MOOR BUZZARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 57. *Ib. fol.* 67. *tab. A.* 5. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 225. *L. Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 53. *Ib. supt.* p. 15. *Mont. Orn. Diet.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds. Pt.* 1. p. 61.

THIS species is about twenty-one inches in length, nearly three feet in breadth, and weighs twenty-two ounces. Bill an inch and a half long, having a slight notch near the tip; irides yellow; legs and claws long and slender. Colours of the female not so bright as those of the male, which it exceeds in size, being about twenty-four inches in length: both sexes vary in colour, they are sometimes found of an entire chocolate brown, also with the head and neck white.

The MOOR BUZZARD is not so generally dispersed as some of its congeners, it usually affects moist barren situations, such as swampy moors and commons, and sandy spots near the sea; with us they are a shy solitary bird, but Mr. MONTAGUE says,

says, “ he has seen as many as nine at one time feeding on the carcase of a sheep on the sandy flats on the coast of Carmarthenshire.”

It breeds usually on the ground; though it has also been known to build on trees; last season a pair built their nest, composed of sticks, grafts, and the leaves and decayed stalks of the following rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in an osier ground near the Grand-Surrey-Canal, on the Deptford-Road; it was placed on a small hillock, just above the water's edge, and contained five dusky white eggs, two of them were splashed with rust coloured spots at the larger end; the female was shot from the nest, and being but slightly wounded lived in confinement for some months; it was fed with frogs, mice, worms, beetles, the entrails of fish and other animals, and was particularly voracious.

In its wild state this bird feeds on rabbits, hares, the young of the coot and moor-hen, it also frequents the haunts of lapwings and plovers, and destroys numbers of their young; it is not as sluggish as the common buzzard, though by no means an active bird on wing; in the spring whilst the female is incubating, the male frequently soars to a great height, and is on wing during the greater part of the day.

They are very attentive to their young, and alternately go in quest of food; the male has been known to relieve the female during the time of incubation.

Provincial names, Bald Hawk or Buzzard, Duck Hawk, White-Headed Harpy.



Fulica chloropus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth May 2, 1828.

FULICA CHLOROPUS.

COMMON GALLINULE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill thick at the base, compressed at the sides, having a bare skin extending from its base up the forehead.

Wings and tail short.

Legs flattened at the sides.

Toes long, divided to their origin, and furnished with a narrow serrated edging.

SYNONYMS.

FULICA CHLOROPUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 258. 4.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. 770. 13.

COMMON GALLINULE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 217. tab. 77.

Ib. fol. 131. *tab. L.* 1. *Arct. Zool.*

2. 411. *Ib. supt.* p. 69. *Lath. Syn.*

5. p. 258. 12. *Mont. Orn. Diet.*

Vol. 1. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.

p. 123.

LENGTH fourteen, and breadth twenty-two inches, weight twelve to sixteen ounces. Bill strong, an inch and a quarter long, the skin at the base is of a bright scarlet colour during the spring, but as the year advances it becomes paler, and in winter is frequently white; irides red; toes long; the skin above the knee is of a scarlet colour in the male, but in

the

the female inclines to yellow ; the general hue of both sexes is alike ; the female is the palest coloured, and is somewhat less than the male.

'This present is an abundant species, frequenting most streams and ponds, particularly such as are well sheltered with trees and abound in sedge, amongst which it lies concealed during the greater part of the day ; towards evening it quits its retreat, and may be found skulking along under banks or trees that overhang the stream ; on the slightest alarm it squats down, or if on the water dives to a distance, and on its attaining the surface, the head is the only part that can be observed ; it but seldom takes wing, and flies very badly, with its legs dangling down in a very awkward manner ; whilst either running or swimming, its tail is continually flirted up ; it is said to perch on trees when alarmed, though its feet do not seem calculated for that purpose.

The Moor-Hen (as it is most usually called) forms its nest of coarse grass, rushes, and flags, it is generally placed on a sloping bank, scarcely above the water's level, owing to which circumstance, many of the nests are destroyed by the rising of the water ; it lays eight to ten eggs of a light brown, splashed with rust colour ; the young are at first covered with a thick black down, and take to the water almost as soon as excluded, though they continue to receive the attention of the parent birds till towards the fall of the year.

The female sits about twenty days, in which office she is frequently relieved by the male ; at this time if they are alarmed, the male will often utter a shrill scream, and sometimes

sometimes takes wing, and continues a low whistling note until the alarm has subsided.

It feeds on insects, worms, aquatic seeds, and roots, and may frequently after harvest be found in stubble fields, picking up scattered grain ; at this time their flesh is well flavoured, though at other seasons it is frequently rank and fishy.

Numbers of the young are destroyed by the Moor Buzzard and other species of hawk, also by trout and pike ; when taken young they soon become familiar, and will associate with ducks, and readily attend them to the farm yard. Its provincial names, are Moor-Hen, Moor-Coot, Marsh-Hen, Cuddy, and Water-Hen.



Falco chrysenteros.

Pl. IV. O. Groves - Wolverv. June 1. 1862.

FALCO CHRYSEATOS.

GOLDEN EAGLE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, hooked, covered at the base with Cere.

Nostrils situated in the Cere.

Tongue cleft.

Toes three forward, one backward, the middle toe connected to the outer one to the first joint.

Claws large and hooked, the hind and inside front claws of the same size.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO CHRYSEATOS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 125. 5. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 12. 8.

GOLDEN EAGLE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 42. *tab.* 16. *Ib. fol.* p. 61. *tab. A.* *Arct. Zool.* 2. 214. *A.* *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 31. *Ib. supt.* p. 10. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* *Pt.* 1. p. 47. *Cat. of the London Museum,* p. 40. *female,* p. 39.

THIS bird measures from tip to tip of the wings somewhat more than eight feet; in length three feet six inches, and it weighs from twelve to fourteen pounds. Bill very strong, much hooked, and very sharp at its edges; irides yellow; legs short, covered with feathers to the toes; claws very

very long, sharp, and strong, the hind ones being more than three inches in length. The female corresponds in colour, except being slightly dashed with white on the under side; it is considerably larger than the male, sometimes being nine feet in breadth, and four in length, and weighing sixteen pounds.

This species builds in the most inaccessible rocks in the north of England, Ireland, Scotland, and some of the Scottish isles, it has also been known to breed in North Wales, but in all these parts is very rare; it lays three or four white eggs.

About two years ago one of these birds, a female, was shot near Brompton, in Middlesex, and was presented by the Compte de VANCES to the London Museum, from which specimen our figure was taken; within a week of the same time, a male of this species was shot near Godalming, Surrey.

The Golden Eagle feeds on hares, rabbits, lambs, and the larger kinds of poultry; "and in order to extirpate them from the Orkney-Islands, there is a law which entitles any one killing an Eagle, to a hen out of every house in the parish where it may be killed."



Strix pygmaea:

Rib. by GARRICK WILKINSON. June 1770.

STRIX PASSERINA.

LITTLE OWL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Strix Bubo.*

SYNONYMS.

STRIX PASSERINA. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 133. 12. *Ind.*
Orn. 1. *p.* 65. 46.

LITTLE OWL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 70. *Ib. fol.* 73. *tab. B.* 5.
Arct. Zool. 2. 126. *Lath. Syn.* 1.
p. 150. 40. *Mont. Orn. Dic̄.* *Vol. 2.*
Cat. of the London Museum, *p.* 43.

LENGTH nearly nine, and breadth fourteen inches, weight about two ounces and a half. Bill broad at the base, and much curved, surrounded with hair-like feathers, which project beyond the bill; irides light yellow with green reflections; legs feathered to the toes, which are covered with down, interspersed with hairs; claws long and slender. These birds are subject to considerable variation in the colour of their plumage; the female rather exceeds in size.

This is a very rare bird, and is but seldom known to breed in this country; our friend Mr. GOUGH, of Middleshaw, in Westmoreland, informs us, “ a pair took up their abode in a barn, in that village, in the spring of 1811, one of which died by some accident; another pair bred in a chimney, in the same neighbourhood,

neighbourhood, a year or two before. They frequently fly by day, and do not court the shades of night so much as the other species."

It feeds on mice and other small animals, and usually builds in chimnies and old ruined buildings; it lays five roundish white eggs, blotched with cream colour and light brown.

A fine specimen of this bird is in the London Museum, from which our figure was taken.



Corvus caryocactates.

From a drawing by J. G. Keulemans.

CORVUS CARYOCACTATES.

NUTCRACKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See Corvus Corax.

SYNONYMS.

CORVUS CARYOCACTATES. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 157. 10.

Ind. Orn. 1. p. 164. 39.

NUTCRACKER. *Br. Zool. Appdx. tab.* 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2.

p. 252. *D. Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 400.

38. *Ib. supt.* p. 82. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br. Birds,
Pt. 1. p. 111.

THIS rare species is about thirteen inches in length, and weighs between eight and nine ounces. Bill two inches long, the base thickly beset with sharp pointed feathers interspersed with bristles; eyes light hazel; legs very strong; claws short, and much curved.

But few instances are on record of this bird having been found in England; the specimen from which our figure was executed was shot in Devonshire, and presented by Mr. HARRISON, of Parliament-Street, to Mr. BULLOCK, proprietor of the London Museum.

These birds are found in abundance in many parts of Europe, particularly Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Burgundy, and

and “ the pine forests of Ruffia and Siberia, and all over Kamtschatka ;” they are said to feed principally on the seeds of the pine.

The Nutcracker takes its name from the facility with which it breaks nuts to get at the kernels ; this it does by first fixing the nut in a crevice in the bark of a tree, and splitting it by repeated strokes of its bill. It is said to build in holes of trees, which it adapts to this purpose with its bill in the manner of the wood-pecker. We are unacquainted with the eggs.



Caprimulgus Europaeus.

Pub'd by G. Graves Watherine July 1798.

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS.

EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, hooked at the end; gape very wide, extending beyond the eyes; upper mandible furnished with a row of stiff bristles along the edges.

Tongue pointed, entire.

Legs short and scaly.

Toes connected by a membrane as far as the first joint, middle claw serrated.

Tail composed of ten feathers.

SYNONYMS.

CAPRIMULCUS EUROPÆUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 346. 1.
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 584. 5. *W. Curtis*
Mss.

NOCTURNAL GOATSUCKER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 173. tab. 59.
Ib. fol. 97. tab. R. 1.

EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 437. A.
Hist. Selborne. p. 62. 94. *Lath. Syn.*
4. p. 593. 5. *Ib. supt.* p. 194. *Mont.*
Orn. Diet. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 1. p. 265.

LENGTH exceeding ten inches; breath nearly eighteen; weight about three ounces. Bill small and weak; mouth large; irides large and dark; legs scaly, short, feathered below the knees; the inner edge of the centre claw curiously serrated.

ferrated. The general colour of the female is like the male, but the male has an oval white spot on the two outside tail feathers.

The Goatsucker arrives in this country early in May, and remains through the summer, leaving us towards the end of September or beginning of October; it lays on the ground without any appearance of nest, two oblong-oval eggs (larger than those of a blackbird) most beautifully variegated with light and dark brown, interspersed with ash colour, not greatly unlike the elegant markings of the bird; the eggs are frequently placed on a decayed plant of fern. While incubating, the male is very attentive to his mate, bringing her insects and keeping watch in case of danger; but we never observed it take to the eggs during the absence of the female.

During the day, it resorts to low woods and coppices, where it remains till the dusk of evening, when it goes in quest of food, which consist of beetles, moths, and other insects, particularly the chaffer, these it does not swallow immediately, but after it has collected a quantity in its mouth it retires to devour them, first disgorging and then swallowing them singly. Whilst flying it utters a shrill squeak, and often strikes its wings together, which make a smart snapping noise; this is usually made when alarmed; in perching it does not place itself across a branch, but rests its whole body along the tree, which makes it very difficult to find, where it utters a loud noise, resembling the brisk turning of a spinning-wheel; if roused in the day-time it flies badly and frequently stuns itself against trees, but in the evening and in moonlight nights it sports on wing in the same manner and

with

with almost as much agility as the swallow. Sometimes, when flying with great swiftness, they will close their wings and drop to the ground in an instant ; we have repeatedly attempted to surprise them in this state, but, in general, they are too quick ; we rather suppose they descend in this manner to seize some insect, which their superior power of sight enables them to perceive, though at a distance.

This species is very abundant on Sydenham-Common and the wood in its vicinity, we have seen a dozen or more together flying about like swallows ; they are met with also in the neighbourhoods of Hornsey, Coome-Wood, Enfield-Chace, and several other places within a few miles of London ; it is dispersed all over the kingdom.

The intelligent author of the History of Selborne, when speaking of the agility of this bird, says : “ A Fern Owl, this evening (August 27) showed off in a very unusual and entertaining manner, by hawking round and round the circumference of my great spreading oak for twenty times following, keeping mostly close to the grafts, but occasionally glancing up amidst the boughs of the tree. This amusing bird was then in pursuit of a brood of some particular plicilæna belonging to the oak, of which there are several sorts, and exhibiting on the occasion a command of wing superior I think to that of the swallow itself.

“ When a person approaches the haunts of fern owls in an evening, they continue flying round the head of the intruder ; and by striking their wings together above their backs, in the manner that the pigeons called smiters are known to do, make a smart

a smart snap ; perhaps at that time they are jealous of their young ; and their noise and gestures are intended by way of menace."

Our figure was executed for the late W. CURTIS.

Its provincial names, Night-Hawk, Dorr-Hawk, Fern-Owl, Churn-Owl, Goat-Owl, Wheel-Bird, Night-Jarr, and Night-Swallow.



Pelecanus lophurus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth July 2, 1809.

PELECANUS LOPHURUS.

TUFTED SHAG.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Pelecanus Carbo*.

SYNONYMS.

TUFTED SHAG OF THE BASS. *Bullock's Catalogue to
the London Museum*, p. 68, 8vo. ed.

THIS species corresponds in size with the common shag, but differs considerably in elegance of form. Bill three inches long, slender; irides bright green; crown of the head ornamented with a tuft of forty-six narrow feathers, which have a slight inclination forward, these do not appear to be erectable at pleasure; the pouch is small and minutely speckled with black; tail composed of twelve stiff round pointed feathers; legs slender. The specimen from which our figure was taken "was shot on the Bass island in the Frith of Forth, where they are supposed to breed and remain all the year."

Mr. BULLOCK mentions that "two of these birds, both females, were shot by him on the 9th of May 1807; the ovaries of both specimens contained a number of small eggs, and from the account of the person who takes the young Gannets at the Bass, and who possesses considerable knowledge of the birds that visit it, there can be but little doubt of its being a new species, and of its rearing its young in the inaccessible

cessible precipices of that island," and he further remarks "the flesh was eaten and found to be entirely destitute of that rancid smell and taste that affects the generality of the cormorant tribe."

We have called this species *Lophurus*, in contradistinction to *Cristatus*, though both terms have the same meaning; the latter has been taken up by Dr. LATHAM, and applied as a specific name to the crested shag; our appellation may be retained as a specific name to the present, should further experience confirm the present opinion of its being a distinct species.

Our figure was taken from the specimen above alluded to in the London Museum.



• *buc. brev. C. clangula*?

Publ. by S. Crates New York July 1870.

ANAS CLANGULA.

GOLDEN EYE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus* (*ferus.*)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CLANGULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 201. 23. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 867. 87. *W. Curtis Mss.*

GOLDEN EYE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 276. *Ib. fol.* 154. *tab. Addenda. Arct. Zool.* 2. 486. *Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* *Pl. 2. p. 330.*

" **T**HIS species is about nineteen inches in length, rather exceeding thirty in breadth, and weighs two pounds. Bill short, very thick at the base; irides bright gold colour; feathers on the head particularly thick, giving the bird a disproportioned appearance; legs short and thick; toes long." The female differs so much in colour that it will form the subject of a future plate.

The GOLDEN EYE is rather a scarce species, being but seldom met with except in small flocks of four to six birds; they are very shy and difficult of access; they are sometimes sent to the London markets with other species, from the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridge; they are a local bird, and if unmolested return many years in succession to the same haunts

haunts in the winter. Mr. GOUGH informs us that some were seen on the rivers in Westmoreland, November 9, 1798, which was considered a very unusual circumstance.

They generally arrive in this country in the month of October, and do not leave till towards the end of April ; they fly very quick and to a great height, making a loud noise in their flight, and are remarkable good divers.

The male bird is furnished with a labyrinth, and has a swelling in the *trachia*, by which the species is readily discovered, though subject to considerable variety in colour.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.



Motacilla Phaniciurus.

Lit. by G. Graves Málvern July 3. 1812.

MOTACILLA PHœNICURUS.

REDS TART.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See Motacilla luscinia.

SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA PHœNICURUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 335. 34.
SILVIA ————— *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 511. 15.
REDSTART. *Br. Zool.* 1. 146. *Ib. fol.* 99. *tab. S. fig.*
6. 7. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 416. *B.*
Lath. Syn. 4. p. 421. 11. *Mont.*
Orn. Diet. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 1. p. 219.

TH E weight of this species rather exceeds half an ounce, it is six inches in length and eight and a half in breadth. Bill short; irides hazel; legs and claws slender. The female is light brown where the male is grey, and the other colours are considerably duller than in the male.

This is a migratory species, arriving in this country from the 11th of April till the 2d of May, and quitting from the 20th of September to the 8th or 12th of October. On its appearing, it begins to sing; its note is pleasing though not of very long duration, and will frequently continue to sing at intervals the night through, whilst the female is incubating; as soon as the young are excluded, it becomes silent, and is seldom heard to utter more than its call from the 9th of June till

till the beginning of July, at which period the young have left the nest, when it again resumes its song ; but not so loud or frequently as before, and continues it till it quits this country ; whilst singing, its tail is continually jerked up in a very singular manner.

The Redstart builds in holes in decayed trees and old walls, frequently placing the nest between the trunk of a tree and a plant of ivy or woodbine that may be growing round it ; this spring, we took the nest from out of a thick bush of woodbine, it contained five eggs ; two weeks afterwards, the same pair of birds had formed a second nest in the same spot, which contained four eggs ; these they have now reared. The nest is composed of moss, lined with hair and feathers ; it lays five or six light-blue eggs ; the young are at first speckled in the same manner as the young of the Redbreast ; but this they lose at the first moult.

This species feeds on insects, worms, and soft berries, as currants, strawberries, raspberries, and the like.

Its provincial names are, Redtail, Firetail, Redrump, Brandtail, and Redtailed Flycatcher.



Rallus Porzana.

Pub. by G. Graves Walworth July 1792.

RALLUS PORZANA.

SPOTTED GALLINULE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Gallinula Chloropus*.

SYNONYMS.

RALLUS PORZANA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 262. 3. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 772. 19.

SPOTTED GALLINULE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 215. *Ib. fol.* 130.
*tab. L**. 1. *Act. Zool. supt.* p. 69.
Lath. Syn. 5. p. 264. 18. *Mont. Orn. Diet.* Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 25.

THIS elegant bird is in length nine inches, in breadth about fifteen, and its weight rather exceeds four ounces. Bill three-fourths of an inch long ; irides light red ; legs delicately slender ; colour alike in both sexes ; the female has not the bare skin on the forehead of so bright a colour as in the male.

The Spotted Water Hen is one of the most beautiful of our water birds ; it frequents marshes and shallow streams of water, where it breeds ; is met in greater abundance within a few miles of London, than perhaps in any other parts of this kingdom ; its nest is composed of sticks, decayed grafts, and rushes, and is said to be fastened to a living plant, by which it is prevented from being carried away by the rising of the water ; it lays six or seven white eggs about the size of a blackbird's.

blackbird's. The young take to the water as soon as hatched, and do not require the future care of the parent; notwithstanding which, they keep together till the ensuing autumn.

We have known this bird to breed in fields to the left of the Kent-Road, called Roll's-Meadows; one of them was killed, after which they forsook the spot.

Few birds run with greater facility than the present, as it makes its way through the thickest herbage, or runs on the surface of the soft mud; in the dusk of evening it may be seen searching for slugs, worms, and insects, and readily discovered by its craking call; it flies badly, though, after being repeatedly roused, it will sometimes ascend to a considerable height.

This has generally been considered as a migratory species, but we much doubt whether that is the case, as we have repeatedly known them exposed for sale on the stalls of the London poulters during winter, particularly in the winter of 1811—12. On the 30th of December 1811, five were for sale at one shop, and we purchased two the latter-end of the month following; in fact, we have heard of or seen them almost every month in the year.

Its provincial names are Spotted Water-Hen, Spotted Rail, Lesser Spotted Water-Rail, Skitty, and Water-Crake.



Mergus. Merganser

Publ. by G. Gould. M. & W. H. Weller, Esqrs.

MERGUS MERGANSER.

GOOSANDER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, depressed, both mandibles serrated on the edges, the point of the upper mandible furnished with a curved nail.

Tongue serrated on the sides.

Nostrils small, situated near the centre of the bill.

Toes as in the duck tribe with these exceptions, that the outer toe is the longest, and the hind one has a kind of fin attached to it.

SYNONYMS.

MERGUS MERGANSER. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 208. 2. *Ind. Orn.* p. 828. 1. *W. Curtis Mss.*

MERGANSER. *W. Curtis Mss.*

GOOSANDER OR MERGANSER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 260. *tab.* 92. *fig.* 1. *Ib. fol.* 147. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 465. *Ib. supt.* p. 73. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 418. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dic.* Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 2. p. 228.

“ **T**HIS species varies exceedingly in weight, sometimes weighing above five pounds and at others less than three; its length is about two feet four to six inches, and breadth nearly three feet six inches. Bill three inches and a quarter long, on the inside of the upper mandible are a double row of small ferratures,

ferratures, similar to those on the edges of the bill ; the tongue has also a double row of these kind of teeth along the middle, and a single row on each side, interspersed with thick bristles, the teeth on the upper surface are not observable except when it is in the act of taking food ; irides red ; feathers on the hind parts of the head and neck loose and long, these it can raise or depress at pleasure ; tail composed of eighteen feathers ; legs strong." We are at present uncertain with respect to the identity of the female.

The colour of the breast in very old birds is generally white, and we doubt much whether they lose the rosy buff colour till six or seven years old.

The *trachia* of this species is curiously enlarged, having three swellings that it can fill with air at pleasure, and which are most probably provided to assist the bird in respiration under water, where it frequently remains a long time in search of food.

The Goosander is a rare visitant in the southern parts of this island, though not very uncommon on the more northern ; it is said to breed in the Orknies and remain there the year, though in very severe weather it resorts to our rivers and lakes ; on the 29th of November 1811, two of these birds were taken in a net by a fisherman in the Thames, near Woolwich ; they were kept alive for some months (from one of them our description was taken) ; they were fed on small fish, particularly sprats and herrings, and readily came on the approach of any one, in expectation of food ; they always swallow their food head first ; besides fish they frequently had sea-weed given them ;

them ; the only species they would eat, was what the fishermen call sea whip-cord, *Fucus Filum*, this they ate greedily, and would frequently leave fish for it ; unless much pressed by hunger they would not eat any kind of food that was tainted ; in feeding they were very nice, but always preferred salt-water fish to those taken in the river, some of the latter kinds they would not take even when kept two days without food, particularly barbel and tench.

This species is dispersed through the colder parts of Europe, Asia, and America ; it breeds in Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland, and Hudson's-Bay.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.

* * By an oversight in the Engraver, our figure is represented as having the centre toe longer than the outer one ; the reverse is the case.



Motacilla flava.

Pub. by G. Graves, Birmingham, July 1818.

MOTACILLA FLAVA.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Motacilla vulgaris*.

SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA FLAVA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 33. 12. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 504. 8.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 143. *Ib. fol.* 105.
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 396. *tab. F.* *Lath.*
Syn. 4. p. 400. 6. *Ib. supt.* p. 179.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 1. p. 206.

THIS delicate lively bird is seven inches in length, nine and a half in breadth, and weighs about ten drams. Bill sharp-pointed, having a notch in the upper mandible near the tip; irides dark hazel; legs and claws slender, the hind claw nearly straight, about twice the length of the others. The colours of both sexes are disposed alike, but those of the female are less lively than in the male.

In elegance of shape, delicacy of colour, and liveliness of manners, this bird is perhaps unequalled; it is the most common of the genus in many parts of this country, and is readily distinguished from the other species by its flight, which is not

so undulated as the Common or White, and much quicker than the Grey Wagtail, with which species this is frequently confounded ; the note of the Yellow is not so shrill nor drawn out to such a length as those of the other species,

The Yellow Wagtail arrives in this country from the 14th of March to the 1st of April ; it nestles usually on the ground, the nest is composed of dried stalks, grass, and horse-hair ; it lays four or five pale-brown eggs, splashed with dusky ; the young at first have scarcely any appearance of yellow, except under the throat. They are very tenacious of the nest, and will hover round the vicinity of it for a great length of time, rather than discover their retreat to an observer ; we have seen the female, with a worm in her bill for more than an hour, flying with the greatest anxiety over the heads of some mowers who were at work near the nest, nor did she attempt to venture to it, till after they had quitted the field.

It usually affects drier situations than the other species, frequenting commons, pastures, and corn fields ; it feeds on worms and insects, and may often be seen running round cattle whilst feeding, and will frequently seize a fly from off the nose of a cow or horse ; in cold damp weather numbers of them resort to pastures in quest of worms, which are at that time roused by the trampling of the cattle ; their more common food (insects) at such times being but scantily to be met with.

They leave this country about the latter-end of September or beginning of October, and retire southwards ;
they

they remain throughout the year in some parts of France, and also in the Sicilies.

Its provincial names are Spring or Summer Wagtail, and Yellow Dishwasher.

NOTE.

We take this opportunity of observing, that in future all our figures, of such birds as do not exceed seven inches in length, will be given of half their natural size.



Falco columbarius.

Tut. Mr. S. Groves. Woburn June 2. 1810.—

FALCO CINERACEUS.

ASH-COLOURED FALCON.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO CINERACEUS. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1.

ASH-COLOURED FALCON. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1.

FALCO HYEMALIS. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 35. 78. ?

NORTHERN FALCON. *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 79. 62. ?

WINTER FALCON. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 209. ?

MR. MONTAGUE, in the Ornithological Dictionary, has made a distinct species of this bird, under the name we have affixed to it; we have adopted the same synonyms, though we have our doubts whether the present is the bird referred to in the above author's.

The length of this species is about sixteen inches and a half, breadth twenty-eight, and it weighs about ten ounces and a half. Bill small, notched; cere and bill covered with scurf; irides yellow, legs long and slender, claws short and not much hooked, tail long. Colours of the sexes alike, except the female being duller, and having the breast much more inclined to dusky than the male; the female exceeds in size, being eighteen inches long and thirty in breadth, and weighs near twelve ounces.

A pair

A pair of these birds were killed in Battersea-Fields about the middle of last May (1812) from which our description was taken; the person who shot them was not able to find their nest, though, from their manner, there seemed no doubt of its being near the spot.

In the London Museum, Piccadilly, a fine specimen is preserved in the Hawk-Case, No. 4.



Hirundo Pratincola.

Pl. 37. By G. Graves Waterworth July 1. 1812.

HIRUNDO PRATINCOLA.

AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

" Bill short, straight, hooked at the end, gape wide.
Nostrils placed near the base, linear oblique.
Toes long, slender, connected by a membrane at the
base.
Tail forked, consisting of twelve feathers." *Lath. Syn.*

SYNONYMS.

HIRUNDO PRATINCOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 345. 12.

GLAREOLA AUSTRIACA. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 753. 1.

AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE. *Lath. Syn. Vol.* 5. p. 222.
tab. 85.

THIS rare visitor is in length ten inches and a half; in breadth twenty-one and a half; and weighs near three ounces. Bill curved; irides light red; tail much forked; legs bare above the knees; toes long.

The Pratincole may be considered as one of the most rare birds that occasionally resort to this country; the specimen from which our figure was taken, was shot near Ormskirk, in Lancashire, in October 1809; and we have received accounts of three others that have been shot at various times and places; one in September 1811, near Truro, in Cornwall;

wall; another in the vicinity of Boldness, in Cumberland (1807); and the third on the Eude-Waters, on the estate of the Duke of NORFOLK, in Sufrey.

From LATHAM's Synopsis, we learn, that this bird inhabits Germany, particularly the borders of the Rhine, near Strasburg, and lives on worms and aquatic insects; it is also, at times, seen in some of the provinces of France, especially Lorraine; but it is in the greatest plenty in the deserts towards the Caspian-Sea, frequenting the dry plains in great flocks.

It is common also throughout the whole desert of the Independent Tartars, as far as the rivers Kamyschtofska and Irtish, but not further into Siberia, the plains fit for it being there at an end; and, according to PENNANT, it is not in general observed beyond 53 degrees north.

We are indebted for our figure to the liberality of Mr. BULLOCK, of the London Museum.



Motacilla rubicola.

Pub. by G. Graves Wadsworth, Sept. 22, 1822.

MOTACILLA RUBICOLA.

STONE-CHAT.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See Motacilla luscinia.

SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA RUBICOLA. *Lin. Syft.* 1. p. 332. 17.

SYLVIA RUBICOLA. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 523. 49.

STONE-CHATTER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 159. *Ib. fol.* 103.
tab. S. 2. fig. 5, 6. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p.
448. 46. *Mont. Orn. Dic.* Vol. 2,
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 240.

THE weight of this species is about half an ounce, breadth eight inches, length nearly five ; bill broad at the base, point sharp, slightly notched near the tip ; irides dark ; the first four quill feathers terminate in points, the others are nearly square at the tips. In the female, the head is of the same colour as the back ; she has not the white on the rump, but in other respects corresponds in colour with the male.

The STONE-CHAT is very generally met with in most parts of this country, frequenting commons and places abounding with furze, in such situations it breeds ; its nest is composed of moss and bents, sparingly lined with hair and feathers ; it lays five or six blue eggs, faintly spotted at the larger end ; the nest is generally placed on the ground, at the bottom of a furze bush ; it is very attentive to its young, and is particularly tenacious of the nest.

This

This species is one of our earliest breeders, frequently laying the first week in April, at which time its note is very lively, though not of any length ; it ceases to sing after the first week in June ; its song is generally uttered when on wing, and mostly while in the act of descending. Its principal food is worms and insects, the latter it seizes in the manner of the fly-catchers, by springing at them as they fly over it, and then returns to the same spray to wait the appearance of some other. It hops and also runs on the ground in the manner of the lark.

Its provincial names are Blacky-Top, Stone-Smith, Moor-Titling, Black-Cap, and Stone-Smich.

N O T E.

In our description to the Red-Breast, we inadvertently gave it the specific name of the present species, it should have been *Motacilla Rubecula*.



Anas crecca.

See Fig. 200, page 111.

ANAS CRECCA.

TEAL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus (ferus.)*

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CRECCA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 33. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 872. 100.

COMMON TEAL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 290. *Ib. fol. tab. addenda.*
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 577. *P. Lath. Syn.*
6. p. 551, 88. *Ib. Supt.* p. 276.

TEAL. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 338.

ANAS CIRCIA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 34.

SUMMER TEAL. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 552. 89.

THE weight of this diminutive species is about twelve ounces, its length is fourteen inches, and breadth nearly twenty-three. Bill slender; irides yellowish hazel; tail cuneiform, composed of sixteen feathers; legs slender.

We purpose giving a figure of the female in a future number.

It arrives in this country in the month of October, in small flocks; flies swift, and dives admirably; it associates with other species of duck, and considerable numbers are daily sent to the London markets during the winter months from the decoys.

Unless

Unless molested the Teal will return annually to the same haunts ; a curious instance of which came to our knowledge a few months ago ; some gentlemen were out on a shooting excursion, in the fens of Lincolnshire, in the winter of 1810, and coming suddenly on some Teal, a shot was fired, which brought one down, which being only wounded in the wing, it was taken off close to its body, and as the bird appeared un-hurt elsewhere, it was conveyed alive to the estate of one of the party, situated in Kent, where it was turned out with the other species of ducks, and soon became familiar and accompanied them to the farm-yard ; it soon recovered and seemed to be quite reconciled to its domestic associates, till the return of mild weather, which happened early in February, when it grew uneasy, and kept fluttering about almost continually, and refused its food ; in a few days the bird was missed and was not to be found. In the month of January 1812, some of the same party paid a second visit to the fens, and on returning to the spot where they met with success last season, they found more Teal, some of which were killed, and among them the bird lost the preceding year, which was clearly identified by marks on its feet, as well as by its wanting a wing.

A variety of this species is frequently confounded with the Garganey, under the name of Summer Teal.



Tetrao Cortunix.

Fitz W. & Graves Walworth Sep. 1. 1812.

TETRAO CORTUNIX.

QUAIL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Tetrao Urogallus*.

SYNONYMS.

TETRAO CORTUNIX. *Lin. Syst.* 1. *p. 278.* 20.

PERDIX CORTUNIX. *Ind. Orn.* 2. *p. 651.* 28.

QUAIL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 97. *Ib. fol. 87. tab. M. 6. Arct. Zool.* 2. *p. 320. B. Lath. Syn.* 4. *p. 779. 24. Ib. supt. p. 222. Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br. Birds,* *Pt. 1. p. 305.*

LLENGTH seven inches and a half, breadth twelve inches ; the weight varies very considerably in different specimens, sometimes being little more than two, and at others exceeding six ounces. Bill short and thick, generally covered with scurf ; eyes bright hazel, varying with age to yellow ; tail composed of twelve feathers, which are mostly hid by the tail coverts ; legs slender. The female wants the black gorget on the breast, and is less brilliant in colours, otherwise the markings of the sexes are alike.

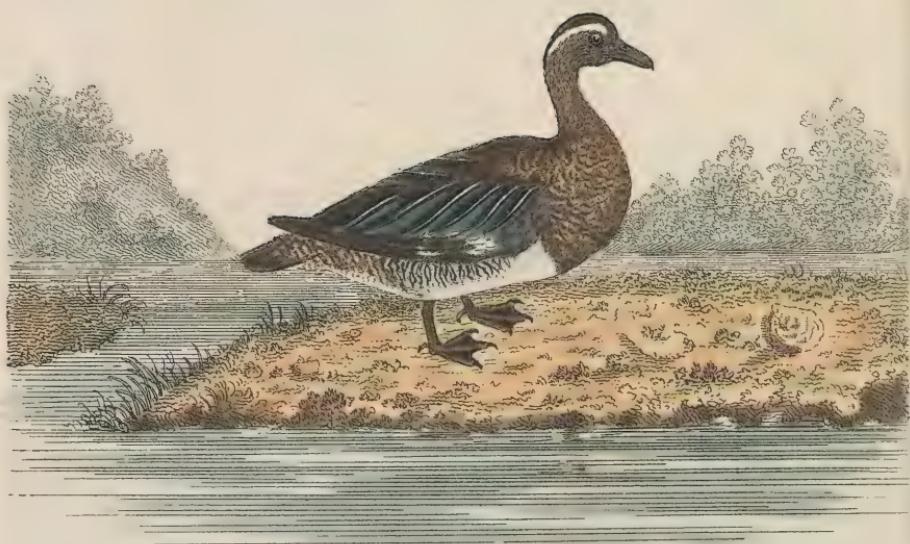
QUAILS are generally considered as migratory birds in this country, though some few winter here, which may perhaps be late hatched birds ; the principal part take their departure about the end of October, and repair southwards, returning in the ensuing spring (in diminished numbers) about the middle

of

of April or beginning of May ; if the wind happens to be contrary many perish on the journey ; they are frequently driven back when attempting to leave our shores, and are picked up dead on the beach. On arriving here they are very lean, but in a few days recover their wasted flesh and strength, and soon become very fat ; their food is insects and grain, also the blades of green wheat, amongst which they are principally found ; they are easily enticed by means of a whistle (which imitates the note or call of the male bird) into nets and snares ; they are kept by poulters in small boxes, made so narrow as to prevent their being able to turn round ; in this state they are fed on bread and sugar mixed with hemp-seed, which fattens them prodigiously ; we have known several kept in this way for eight or nine months ; in the winter season they frequently sell from half a guinea to fifteen shillings the couple.

This species breeds on the ground, it makes scarcely any nest, and lays from eight to twelve dusky coloured eggs, spotted with brown of various tints ; the young begin to run as soon as excluded, frequently with part of the shell adhering to them ; they feed at first on ants and their eggs, much like the partridge, but the parent birds are less careful of their brood.

It is a very pugnacious bird, and was formerly kept in many parts of Europe, as it now is in China, for the purpose of fighting, in the same manner as game cocks, and was trained much in the same way. The species is much less abundant in this country than formerly, but in the south of Europe they are found in immense numbers ; and it is on record, that upwards of one hundred thousand have been taken in one day on the west coast of the kingdom of Naples.



Anas Querquedula.

Pub. by G. Graves Wallwork, Senr. & C°

ANAS QUERQUEDULA.

G A R G A N E Y.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus* (*ferus.*)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS QUERQUEDULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. *p.* 203. 32. *Ind. Orn.* 2. *p.* 872. 99.

GARGANEY. *Br. Zool.* 2. 289. *tab.* 101. *Ib. fol.* 158.
tab. Q. 9. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 576. *O. Lath. Syn.* 6. *p.* 550. 87. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 2. *p.* 336.

THIS elegant species weighs nearly eighteen ounces ; it is about seventeen inches in length, and thirty in breadth ; bill small ; irides reddish hazel ; legs slender. A figure of the female will appear in a subsequent number.

It is a scarce species, and is never met with in numbers ; we have received it from the fens of Ely, as late as the fourteenth of April in the present year, from which it should seem probable, that it breeds there, but we have not heard of its nest having been found. From the decoys it is sometimes sent under the name of Summer Teal ; it has the manners of the common Teal, but flies higher, and when on wing utters a humming noise.

This

This species has been kept for a considerable time in the Queen's menagerie at Frogmore, where it is very familiar, but does not breed.

Provincial names, Pied Widgeon, Summer Teal,



Cuculus canorus.

Engraving from the "Encyclopédie" of Diderot.

CUCULUS CANORUS.

COMMON CUCKOW.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved.

Tongue short.

Tail composed of ten flexible feathers.

Toes two forwards and two backwards.

SYNONYMS.

CUCULUS CANORUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. *p. 168.* 1. *Ind. Orn.* 1. *p. 207.* 1.

COMMON CUCKOW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 82. *tab. 36.* *Ib. fol. 80.* *tab. G. G.* 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p. 266.* *tab. A.* *Lath. Syn.* 2. *p. 509.* 1. *Ib. supt.* *p. 98.* *Mont. Orn. Diet.* *Vol. 1.* *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1,* *p. 131.*

THIS species is nearly fifteen inches in length, twenty-five in breadth, and it weighs about four ounces and a half. Bill strong and much curved; inside of the mouth red; irides and eye-lids yellow; tail consisting of ten feathers of unequal length, of which the outer ones are remarkably short, which is also the case with the first quill feather; legs and claws short. The female differs in colour, being more inclined to brown, and is also nearly an inch shorter than the male.

Of

Of the true history of this bird, but little was known till Mr. GENNER, in a letter to the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, published in the seventy-eighth volume of the Philosophical Transactions, gave to the world the extraordinary highly interesting account we here transcribe. “ On the eighteenth of June 1787, Mr. GENNER examined the nest of a Hedge-Sparrow, which then contained a Cuckow’s and three Hedge-Sparrow’s eggs. On inspecting it the day following, the bird had hatched, but the nest contained only a young Cuckow and one young Hedge-Sparrow. The nest was placed so near the extremity of a hedge, that he could distinctly see what was going forward in it ; and, to his great astonishment, he saw the young Cuckow, though so lately hatched, in the act of turning out the young Hedge-Sparrow.

“ The mode of accomplishing this was curious ; the little animal, with the assistance of its rump and wings, contrived to get the bird on its back, and making a lodgement for its burden by elevating its elbows, clambered backwards with it up the side of the nest till it reached the top, where, resting for a moment, it threw off its load with a jerk, and quite disengaged it from the nest : after remaining a short time in this situation, and feeling about with its wings as if to be convinced that the business was properly executed, it dropped into the nest again.”

The Cuckow generally makes choice of the Hedge-Sparrow’s nest to deposit its egg, it will also lay in the common and yellow wagtails, the white-throats, reed-sparrows, titlarks, and we know of one laying in a swallow’s nest ; we have known the young reared by all the foregoing with the exception of the swallow,

swallow, which on discovering the addition in its nest, precipitately forsook it, and did not ever return, but built a new nest at a distance from the former one. It is not a little curious that this bird always lays in the nests of such birds as feed on insects, by which it secures a supply of proper food to its abandoned offspring: the Hedge-Sparrow will frequently continue to feed the young Cuckow for a considerable time after it has left the nest; the Cuckow is said "to rest itself on its side in order that the Hedge-Sparrow may be able to reach its mouth, and it frequently extends one wing for the bird to pitch on to perform that office."

This bird usually arrives here about the beginning of April, and quits towards the end of July, though we have known them killed as late as the month of October; the well-known cry of the male bird is began to be uttered soon after its arrival, and ceases about the month of June; this year we heard one on the seventeenth of July. It feeds on insects, particularly caterpillars; on the fourth of June, this year (1812) we observed one very busily engaged picking the caterpillars of the peacock and small tortoiseshell butterflies from off a nettle, it seemed to swallow these with considerable difficulty, being some seconds in passing a single one, to perform which, it used very great exertion; after it had cleared the nettle it flew to some cabbages, where it found abundance of the caterpillars of the white butterfly, which being quite smooth and free from hair, it eat them as fast and with as much facility as a pigeon would the same number of peas. When it had finished its repast we killed it, and on opening it, found the hairy caterpillars almost cleared of hair, which was adhering to the sides of the gullet and stomach; this may have given rise

to

to the opinion of the inside of the stomach's being hairy; the smooth caterpillars were all seemingly unhurt, though quite dead.

The young birds differ very considerably from the adults, being all over mottled with brown and ferruginous; they do not attain their full plumage till after the second moult; the eggs are of a dusky white, spotted with various tints of ash-colour and olive green, the spots are most numerous at the larger end. The females do not arrive till some time after the males, nor do they quit till a week or two later; their note is a loud hoarse scream or chatter.

Since the above went to press, we have seen two birds, one on the twenty-sixth and the other on the twenty-seventh of the present month (August) the former one was a male, and was uttering its well known cry of Cuckow, this it did very hoarsely; the sex of the latter one we did not discover.



Turdus arvensis.

Dil. by G. Graves Walworth Sept 22 1821.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS.

T I T - L A R K.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Alauda arvensis*.

SYNONYMS.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. p. 287. 2. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 493. 5.

TIT-LARK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 138. *Ib. fol.* 94. *tab. Q. fig.* 6. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 395. C. *Latb. Syn.* 4. p. 374. 5. *Mont. Orn. Dizt.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 200.

THE TIT-LARK rather exceeds five inches in length, is about ten in breadth, and weighs about half an ounce. Bill sharp, weak, and slender; irides dark hazel; legs slender; hind claw rather bent. Colours of the sexes alike.

Few birds are more plentiful than the present, it frequents commons and barren grounds, where it breeds; the nest is composed of dry stalks, grafts, and lined with finer sorts of the latter, intermixed with long horse-hair; the nest is usually placed on the ground amongst furze or high grass; it lays five or six eggs, of which, seldom two correspond in colour, varying from dark brown to almost cream colour; they are most generally spotted all over with rufous.

In the spring this bird has a very lively note, which it usually utters when descending; it mostly in the evening may be

be seen on a spray, from which it is continually soaring to some height, and descends in the manner of the sky-lark; at these times its note is very fine.

This species feeds on worms and insects, to procure which, it resorts to springs and shallow waters; it is very careful of its young, and in the breeding season, is almost continually on wing to procure food for them; when it has obtained any, it does not immediately return to the nest, but settles at a distance, and then runs to it, owing to this the nest is very difficult to find.

These birds are subject to vary in their plumage, from brown to olive, and we have met with one this season nearly white.

*** : By the oversight of our Writing-Engraver, the specific name of Arvensis has been put on the Plate instead of Pratensis.



Tetrao scoticus

Pub. by G. Green & Son, 1824.

TETRAO SCOTICUS.

RED GROU.S.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Tetrao urogallus*.

SYNONYMS.

TETRAO SCOTICUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 641. 15.

RED GAME. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 23, 24.

RED GROUS. *Br. Zool.* 1. 94. tab. 43. *Ib. fol.* 85. *tab.*

M. 3. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 746. 13.

Ib. supt. p. 216. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.*

p. 299.

LLENGTH of this species fifteen, breadth twenty-three inches; weight from one pound four to six ounces. Bill short and blunt; irides reddish hazel, over the eye is a bare fringed membrane of a bright scarlet colour; legs covered with hair-like feathers to the extremity of the toes; claws broad and concave; tail composed of sixteen feathers.

The female is rather less, and is lighter coloured than the male.

Red Grouse seem confined to the extensive moors in the north of England, and to the mountains of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; the species is indigenous to Great-Britain, and

is

is not met with in any other country: It has been turned out in several parts of Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire, but we believe has not been known to breed.

This species always resorts to open tracts of country, and does not frequent woods; it feeds on the various kinds of mountain and bog-berries, and on the tops of heath, which (though we have examined many) we never found in the crop otherwise than perfectly dry. It lays ten or twelve dusky white eggs, spotted with rust colour; the young run as soon as excluded, and keep together till the ensuing spring; in the winter several broods associate together, frequently to the number of forty or fifty, when one bird constantly is on the watch; they are at this season very shy and difficult of approach.

During the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, they generally perch on the walls, with which the cultivated land in the north of England is enclosed.

Provincial names Moorcock, Gorcock, and Red-Game.



Dendrocopos major.?

Plt. by G. Gravell Walcott, Jun. 25, 1853.

PICUS MAJOR.

GREATER-SPOTTED WOOD-PECKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Picus martius*.

SYNONYMS.

PICUS MAJOR. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. p. 176. 17. *Ind. Orn.* 1.
p. 228. 13.

GREATER-SPOTTED WOOD-PECKER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 85.
Ib. fol. p. 79. *tab. E.* *Arct. Zool.* 2.
162. *Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 564. 12. *Ib.*
supt. p. 107. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.*
2. *Berwick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 142.
Albin's Birds, 1. *tab. 19.*

THIS species weighs nearly three ounces ; length nine, breadth fifteen inches. Bill very strong, one inch and a quarter long ; irides reddish ; legs and claws strong. Colours of the sexes alike except on the head, the upper part of which in the female is black.

The present is not so plentiful as the green wood-pecker, though more abundant than either of the other species ; it chiefly resorts to such thickets as abound in the softer kinds of wood, which it easily penetrates ; in making choice of a situation to deposit its eggs, it generally selects a tree that is unsound at heart, which it readily discovers by the sound, this it perforates

forates with its bill till it arrives at the decayed part, when it works downwards to the depth of eighteen inches or even two feet ; the eggs are deposited at the bottom of the hole without any kind of nest, their number is generally five or six, of a pure glossy white.

In the breeding season this species will sometimes (though but rarely) visit ant-hills, but its principal food is caterpillars and other insects, with which it feeds its young, who before they are able to fly climb up the hole where they were hatched, and anxiously wait the return of the parent birds with food. Its note is particularly harsh and discordant ; in the spring it frequently utters a loud jarring noise, not unlike the cracking or splitting of timber.

The provincial names of this species are Spotted Gally-Bird, Pied Yaffler, Witwall, and most of the terms applied to the green wood-pecker are indiscriminately used to the present bird.



Charadrius Oedicnemus.

Plt. by J. Graves Wallerworth Describer.

CHARADRIUS CEDICNEMUS.

NORFOLK PLOVER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Charadrius pluvialis*.

SYNONYMS.

CHARADRIUS CEDICNEMUS. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. p. 255. 10.

OTIS CEDICNEMUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 661. 11.

THICK-KNEED BUSTARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 100. *Ib. fol.*
127. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 806. 1. *White's Hist. Selbourn*, p. 43. to 88. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1.

STONE CURLEW. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 69.

GREAT PLOVER. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 1. p. 316.

LENGTH eighteen inches, weight from sixteen to twenty ounces: bill one inch and a half long; irides very large, which, with the orbits, are light yellow; legs long; toes short, the outer connected by a membrane to the middle one as far as the first joint; tail composed of twelve rounded feathers. Colours of the sexes alike.

This bird is generally placed by modern authors with the Bustard family, from which it differs in not having the jugular pouch peculiar to the males of that genus, and also in the down, which in the specimens we have examined, of the species found occasionally in this country and some foreign ones, is of a pale pink colour; in this it is dark; it further differs

differs in the number of eggs, which are said to be only two, but in two specimens we examined in the spring of the present year, we found in each a considerable number, five of which were in a state to be laid in as many successive days ; one of the eggs was quite perfect, and would most probably have been laid the day it was killed ; the colour of the egg was greenish white, blotched and spotted with obscure green marks. It does not make any nest, but deposits its eggs on the bare ground, frequently in marshy places, and is said not to sit on them in the day-time, till within a few days of their being hatched ; they run as soon as excluded ; the parent birds are very tenacious of them, and practise the same kind of artifices to mislead, that are so generally adopted by the plover and sand-piper families.

The principal food of this bird is worms, slugs, snails, and insects, also the tops of green wheat and turnip leaves ; we have also found in it entire heads of clover ; it affects open situations, particularly stony hills and large commons in the vicinity of cultivated land ; its note is a loud whistle, which it repeats three or four times, and heightens the note each time. It arrives here in the month of April and quits in October.

Provincial names Stone or Land Curlew and Thick-Kneed Bustard.



Turdus iliacus

Pl. 32. Turdus iliacus. H. G. Allen. 1878.

TURDUS ILIACUS.

REDWING.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Turdus Viscivorus*.

SYNONYMS.

TURDUS ILIACUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 229. 3. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 329. 7.

REDWING. *Br. Zool.* 108. *Ib. fol.* 91. *tab. P. fig.* 2. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 342. *D. Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 22. 7. *Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol.* 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 129. *Albin's Birds,* 1. *tab. 35.*

THE length of this species is about nine, and the breadth fourteen inches; it weighs nearly two ounces and a half. Bill slightly notched at the tip; inside of the mouth yellow; irides dark hazel; tail somewhat forked, with the shafts of the feathers projecting rather beyond the webs; legs and claws strong. The female corresponds in its markings, but the colours are duller than in the male.

The REDWING arrives in this country in large flocks, about the end of September or beginning of October, and quits it in March, some few remain through the year and breed here; we had a fine male bird sent us in the month of July in the present year; there were a pair which had built their nest in a low quickset hedge, but being disturbed, had forsaken it before

the

the female had began to lay ; the female shortly afterwards forsook the place, but the male continued to resort to the same spot till it was killed ; the nest was composed of dry grafts, moss, and small sticks, lined with mud and a few feathers intermixed with hair ; it was four inches and a half in diameter and three inches deep ; its eggs are said to be of a blue green colour spotted with black.

The note of this bird is very similar to that of the Song Thrush, except being drawn out at the termination into a kind of whistle ; in the winter during its flight it frequently utters a piping monotonous note. It feeds on the berries of privet, holly, and white-thorn ; also, on snails, slugs, beetles, and other insects.

Its provincial names are Swinepipe, Wind-Thrush, Red-Thrush, or Throstle.



Platalea leucorodia.

Pubd by G. Grapier Newington Green 1813.

PLATAEA LEUCORODIA.

WHITE SPOON-BILL.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

" Bill long, broad, flat, and thin, the end widening into a roundish form, not unlike a spoon.
Nostrils, small, placed near the base.
Tongue, small and pointed.
Feet, semipalmated." *Mont. Orn. Diet.*

SYNONYMS.

PLATAEA LEUCORODIA. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 231. 1. Ind. Orn. 2. p. 667. 1.*

SPOON-BILL. *Albin's Birds, 2. tab. 66. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 38.*

WHITE SPOON-BILL. *Br. Zool. App. tab. 9. Arct. Zool. 2. p. 441. A. Suppt. p. 66. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 13. 1. Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol. 2.*

" LENGTH two feet eight inches, weight three pounds and a half." Bill near seven inches long, thin and pliable, furnished with a small nail; the upper mandible has a number of irregular protuberances on its surface; irides reddish hazel; feathers on the hind-head long, frequently forming a crest; lore and throat bare and black; legs long, covered with a thick coarse scaly skin; toes connected by a membrane as far as the second joint of the outer and first of the inner toe. In our specimen which is a native one, there is a slight tinge of pale pink under the shoulder.

This

This species but rarely visits England, only two instances of its being met with have come to our immediate knowledge, these were seen by a friend of the author's in the neighbourhood of Lewes, in Sussex, nearly twenty years ago. One of them was shot, which proved a male bird, and is now in a good state of preservation.

A pair of Spoon-Bills were kept a few years ago by E. J. A. WOODFORD, Esq. of Belmont-House, Vauxhall ; which were very tame and would feed from the hand ; their food was worms, slugs, the produce of a fish-pond, and hemp seed ; the latter they dexterously scooped from the surface of the water.

It flies high, and when on wing utters a noise somewhat resembling the cry of the Curlew, but much louder and hoarser ; it builds on trees, the nest is composed of sticks in the same manner as that of the heron or crow ; the eggs are said to be four in number, of a white colour finely sprinkled with red, size about those of the common hen ; during incubation they are noisy and restless.

The species is found in many parts of Europe, and in the milder provinces of Asia, Africa, and America.



Larus ridibundus.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS.

BLACK-HEADED GULL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Larus marinus*.

SYNONYMS.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS. *Lin. Syft.* 1. p. 225. 9. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 811. 2.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 252. *Ib. fol.* 143. *tab. L.* 5. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 445. *Lath.* *Syn.* 6. p. 380. 9. *Ib. supt.* p. 268. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* *Pt.* 2. p. 200.

LARUS CINERARIUS. *Lin. Syft.* 1. p. 224. 4.

— **RIDIBUNDUS.** *Var. β.* *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 812. 2.

RED-LEGGED GULL. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 533. *E. Lath.* *Syn.* 6. p. 381. 10.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS. *Var. γ.* *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 812.

BROWN-HEADED GULL. *Albin's Birds,* 2. *tab.* 86. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 383. 11.

THE length of this bird is about fifteen inches, breadth nearly twenty-eight; it weighs from nine to eleven ounces. Bill slender; irides hazel, orbits deep red; legs slender; feet broad; colours of the sexes alike.

From the difference in the summer and winter plumage of this bird, authors have made distinct species; for the first two years

years the colour of the head is a deep brown, but after the third moulting it becomes black ; in the fall of the year, it entirely loses the black on the head except about the auricles, which does not return till the ensuing spring ; the legs also in the winter become of a dull flesh colour, and the webs nearly black, these also assume their lost colour in the breeding season.

This species is common on most parts of the coasts of this country ; it breeds in fenny places, near the borders of rivers, and lays three or four olive brown eggs, blotched with reddish brown ; its nest is composed of dry coarse grass and rushes.

Formerly this bird was held in esteem as an article of food ; they were taken whilst young, before they were able to fly, by driving them into nets, and when fattened on offal, were sold for the table at five shillings the dozen ; and we further learn from Dr. PLOTT's *History of Staffordshire*, published in 1686, that fifty dozen were frequently taken at a driving, and that three drivings were generally made in a season. This species is found in most of the northern parts of Europe and America.

Its provincial names are Sea-Crow, Crocker, Black-Cap, Red-Legs, Puit or Pewit-Gull, and Mire-Crow.



Scotopava calidris. —

FIG. 23. G. Graven's Description, 1800.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS.

R E D - S H A N K.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Scolopax rusticola*.

SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 245. 11. *Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 722. 25.

RED-SHANK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 184. *tab.* 65. *Ib. fol.* 124.
Arct. Zool. 2. 377. *Albin's Birds,* 3.
tab. 87. *Laib. Syn.* 5. p. 150. 20.
Ib. supt. p. 245. *Mont. Orn. Diet.*
Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 2.
p. 93.

THE RED-SHANK weighs about four ounces, is twelve inches and a quarter in length, and twenty-two in breadth. Bill nearly two inches long; irides reddish; legs slender, colour yellowish red, they measure about four inches and a half from the bare part of the thigh to the extremity of the toes; claws rather long; the sexes are not discoverable by their colours, as both males and females vary considerably; in some the rump is pure white, and in one we have, the neck and breast are cinerious.

These birds are common in many parts of this country, particularly fenny places; they are sent from Lincoln and Cambridgeshires

Cambridgeshires to the London markets, in very considerable numbers ; they breed in the vicinity of marshes and in boggy places ; we have seen them in company with Lapwings on Riegate-Heath ; their number of eggs is four, which in colour resemble those of the Lapwing, but are rather smaller and more pointed.

During the time of incubation they are very restless, and pursue the same stratagems to mislead, as are practised by most others of this extensive family ; when disturbed from their eggs, they fly over the heads of the intruders, uttering a shrill scream ; they do not make any nest, but deposit their eggs on a tuft of grass, most generally in the vicinity of an extensive swamp ; the young at first are of a dull olive brown colour ; they run as soon as hatched, and feed on small worms and aquatic insects ; in the stomach of a full grown female, killed in January 1812, we found a marine univale shell, one inch and a quarter long, and seven-eighths of an inch in circumference.

Provincial names Pool-Snipe, Red-legged Horseman, Sand-Cock, or Thriller.



Muscicapa atricapilla.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.

PIED FLY-CATCHER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill beset with bristles, upper mandible flattened at the base, and notched near the tip.

Other Characters as in the Alauda and Motacilla Generas.

SYNONYMS.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 326. 9.
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 467. 1.

PIED FLY-CATCHER. *Br. Zool.* 135. *Ib. fol.* 103.
tab. S. fig. 1. (Maf.) Arct. Zool. 2.
p. 391. B. Ib. supt. p. 64. Lath.
Syn. 3. p. 324. 2. Mont. Orn. Dict.
Vol. 1. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.
p. 208.

LENGTH nearly five inches, breadth about nine; bill weak, slightly notched at the tip; irides dark hazel; legs and claws slender; the female is rather less, and has the colours more blended, the white parts approaching to dusky, and the black not so deep a hue, and also wants the white on the forehead, so conspicuous in the male; both sexes vary in their markings, as is very frequently the case with pied birds.

This

This species is very local ; is found in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Derbyshire ; we have also met with it at Enfield in Middlesex, and at Peckham in Surrey ; in the last-mentioned place we had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with its manners, in the summer of 1812. We did not notice it till the young were about five or six days old ; the nest was formed in a hole in an old willow pollard, at about seven feet from the ground ; it was composed of a few hairs, some dry grafts, and fibres ; they were seven young ones, and their appetites were so insatiate, that the parent birds were on wing during the greatest part of the day seeking food, which consists entirely of insects ; as soon as either had caught an insect, it flew to the tree and uttered a shrill squeak, when the young immediately opened their mouths, and the morsel seemed indiscriminately given to the nearest one : we noticed them for many hours, and on the average, each of the parents returned to the nest about twelve times in five minutes.

The young were able to leave the nest in about two weeks after our first acquaintance with them ; at first they perched on some slender twigs, projecting immediately from the side of the hole where they were nestled, and attempted to catch any insect that passed them, but without leaving the branch, the old birds still continuing to feed them ; in a short time they ventured to spring up from the bough at any passing insect, and returned immediately to the same spot again, and if the effort was successful they instantly flirted up their tail.

When they had left the nest about two weeks, they ventured on wing, and it was particularly amusing to observe their first attempts at taking their prey ; at a few yards from the tree

was

was the wall of a house, which had been whitened ; as soon as they perceived a fly to settle on the wall, they darted with astonishing rapidity at it, and most generally were successful, when they returned with it to their old station. If disappointed in their aim, they flew to the ground, and did not go to the branch again till they had retrieved their loss ; they continued to frequent the same spot till the third week in September, since which we have not seen them.

In the same tree, the wryneck and the spotted fly-catcher also bred, and at the bottom of the stump, which is on the side of a pond, was the nest of the yellow wagtail.

We never noticed any other kind of note than the one before named ; its general habits and manners correspond very nearly with those of the whin-chat and stone-chat. We are unacquainted with its eggs.

Provincial name Coldfinch.



Scolopax Gallinula.

Engraved by W. Hartill, Jr.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA.

JACK-SN I P E.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Scolopax rusticola*.

SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. p. 244. 8. *Ind.*
Orn. 2. p. 715. 8.

JACK-SNIPE or JUDCOCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 189. *tab.* 68.
Ib. fol. 121. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 367.
Lath. Syn. 5. p. 136. 8. *Mont. Orn.*
Dič. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 79. *Albin's Birds,* 3. *tab.* 86.

T HIS elegant species weighs about two ounces, is eight inches and a half in length, and thirteen in breadth.

Bill two inches long; irides hazel; tail pointed; legs delicately slender; colour of the sexes alike.

The JACK-SNIPE is a solitary bird, frequenting thick sedgy places, from which it is not easily dislodged, and will almost suffer itself to be trod on rather than take wing; when roused, it flies but a short distance, and soon returns to the spot where it usually nestles; the species is not so numerous, or so generally dispersed, as the common one, but is frequently found in the same place.

It

It does not arrive in this country till after the common snipe, and generally quits us in March; we have no reason to doubt its breeding here, as it is sometimes seen in the summer months; a friend of the author's, who is very attentive in observing this tribe of birds, assures us, he has taken the nest and young in Cornwall; we have also been informed, that it sometimes breeds in the neighbourhood of Carlisle; the eggs are said to resemble those of the common species in colour, and are about half their size; the nest is composed of dry grass and withered leaves. Some specimens we received from Cumberland weighed upwards of three ounces. Provincial names Half Snipe, Jud, Jet, or Gid-cock.

Since publishing the Common Snipe, we have met with it in considerable numbers, during the months of June and July (1812) in the osier-ground, bordering on the Surrey-Canal, in the Kent-Road. We found many of their nests composed of dry grass and leaves, placed in the midst of a swamp, scarcely above the water; several of the young were killed, which were darker coloured than the adult birds.



Engr. by

Widmer & Co.

Charadrius himantopus.

Fib. by J. Morat / Colored by J. G. Gould.

CHARADRIUS HIMANTOPUS.

LONG-LEGGED PLOVER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Charadrius pluvialis*.

SYNONYMS.

CHARADRIUS HIMANTOPUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 255. 11.

Ind. Orn. 2. p. 741. 3.

LONG-LEGGED PLOVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 209. *Ib. fol.*

128. *Addenda. Arct. Zool.* 2. 405.

White's Hist. Selbourn, 1. p. 258.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 195. 3. *Ib. supt.*

p. 252. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 21.

THIS highly curious species is considered to have longer legs in proportion to its size than any other bird ; it measures from the tip of the bill to the toes eighteen inches, and from the bill to the tail only thirteen ; its breadth is nearly thirty inches.

Bill slender, about two inches and a half long ; irides red ; wings long, extending when closed several inches beyond the tail ; legs very slender, which including the bare part of the thigh are eight inches long ; toes connected at the base.

We

We are entirely ignorant of the habits of this bird, as the few that have been met with in England, may be supposed to be only accidental stragglers. In Mr. WHITE's History of Selbourn, he mentions that the one he had was killed with five others, near Farnham, Surrey, in the month of April. This specimen, he further says, " weighed, when drawn and stuffed with pepper, four ounces and a quarter."

It is not uncommon in the warmer parts of America, in Egypt, and Madras; " is plentiful about the Salt Lakes, and often seen on the shores of the Caspian Sea, as well as by the rivers which empty themselves into it, and in the southern deserts of Independent Tartary."

Provincial names Long-Legs or Long-Shanks.

Our figure was taken from a specimen communicated by Mr. HARRISON, Parliament-Street.



Falco tinnunculus.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS.

K E S T R E L.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 127. 16. *Ind.*
Orn. 1. p. 41. 98.

KESTREL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 60. *Ib. fol.* p. 68. *tab. A.*
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 226. *N. Lath Syn.*
1. p. 94. 79. *Ib. supt.* p. 25. *Mont.*
Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. *Albin's Birds*, 3.
tab. 5 and 7. *Bewick's Br. Birds*,
Pt. 1. p. 75. *Maf.* p. 77. *Fem.*

THIS species weighs about ten ounces, is thirteen inches in length, and twenty-eight in breadth. Bill short, sharp and deeply notched; cere yellow; irides dark hazel; legs strong; claws very long and sharp.

The KESTREL is the most common of the British Hawks; its principal food is mice, in quest of which it may frequently be seen hovering in the air, and often is quite stationary for a considerable time. When pressed by hunger it is remarkably audacious, often pouncing at the birds used as decoys by bird-catchers; and we remember to have seen one strike at a blackbird confined in a cage, and suspended against the front

front of a house, in one of the most public streets in London. On the first of February 1812, while passing along Piccadilly, we perceived a Kestrel directing its course from behind St. James's church ; whilst we were observing it, a flight of pigeons from a neighbouring house attracted its notice, he immediately wheeled round and made a stoop at one, which dexterously eluded his grasp ; not deterred by this failure, he made a second pounce, in which he was more successful, and having trussed a bird, he took it still struggling to a projection from the church, where he leisurely devoured it, notwithstanding it was shot at, and attempted to be roused by the shouts of numerous passengers, who were spectators of this unusual circumstance, in one of the greatest thoroughfares in the metropolis.

A male which we kept alive for a considerable time, was fed principally on birds and mice, it would also devour most other kinds of small animals ; when it had more than sufficient for a meal, it used to hide the remains, and frequently kept them till quite putrid, in which state they were preferred to fresh food.

The young males resemble the female till after the second moult. Its provincial names are Stannel, or Stannel-Hawk, Steingal, Stonegall, Kastril or Kistril, Windhover, and Windfanner.



Tetrao Urogallus.

Print'd by G. Graves Walworth Jan'y 22d 1823.

Warner. &c.

TETRAO UROGALLUS.

WOOD GROU.S.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, short, and very strong.
Skin over the eyes bare.
Nostrils covered with feathers.
Tongue entire, pointed.
Legs feathered.
Claws concave.

SYNONYMS.

TETRAO UROGALLUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 273. 1. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 634. 1.

COCK OF THE WOOD OR MOUNTAIN. *Albin's Birds,* 2. tab. 29, 30.

WOOD OR GREAT GROU.S. *Br. Zool.* 1. 92. tab. 40.
41. *Ib. fol. M. M. Arct. Zool.* 2. p.
312. A. *Ib. supt.* p. 62. *Lath. Syn.*
4. p. 729. 1. *Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol.*
1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 294.

IN size this species exceeds all our native land birds excepting the bustard ; it varies very considerably in weight and size ; the one from which our figure was executed, is the largest specimen we remember to have seen ; it measures three feet

one

one inch and a half in length, seven feet five inches in breadth, and weighed fifteen pounds two ounces and a half ; its weight is usually from nine to twelve pounds, and the length but seldom exceeds two feet eight to ten inches.

Bill nearly three inches long, very strong, the upper mandible projecting, and hooked as in birds of prey ; irides yellowish ; skin over the eye bare, of a brilliant scarlet colour, which after the breeding season changes to dull purple ; feathers on the chin and throat long and ruffed ; tail composed of eighteen feathers, much rounded at the extremity ; legs strong, covered with hair-like feathers to the toes, the edges of which are very strongly pectinated ; claws short and blunt. A figure of the female will appear in a future number.

This species is nearly extinct in Great-Britain ; two instances of its being killed in Scotland within these few years, are the only satisfactory accounts we have received of its being recently found in these kingdoms. One was killed by a gentleman (of the name of HENDERSON) near Fort-William, about six years ago, and sent to Dundee ; but the vessel that conveyed it to London, was detained so long on the passage, that the bird became so putrid that only the head and legs could be preserved. The other specimen was shot by Captain STANTON, near Burrowstone-Nefs, two winters ago ; they were both males ; some few are said to be yet remaining in the pine forests of Scotland, and also in the mountainous parts of Ireland.

The Wood Grous is principally confined to extensive tracts of pine wood, in the north of Europe ; it is also met with in Italy and on the Alps ; it feeds on the seeds and young leaves of

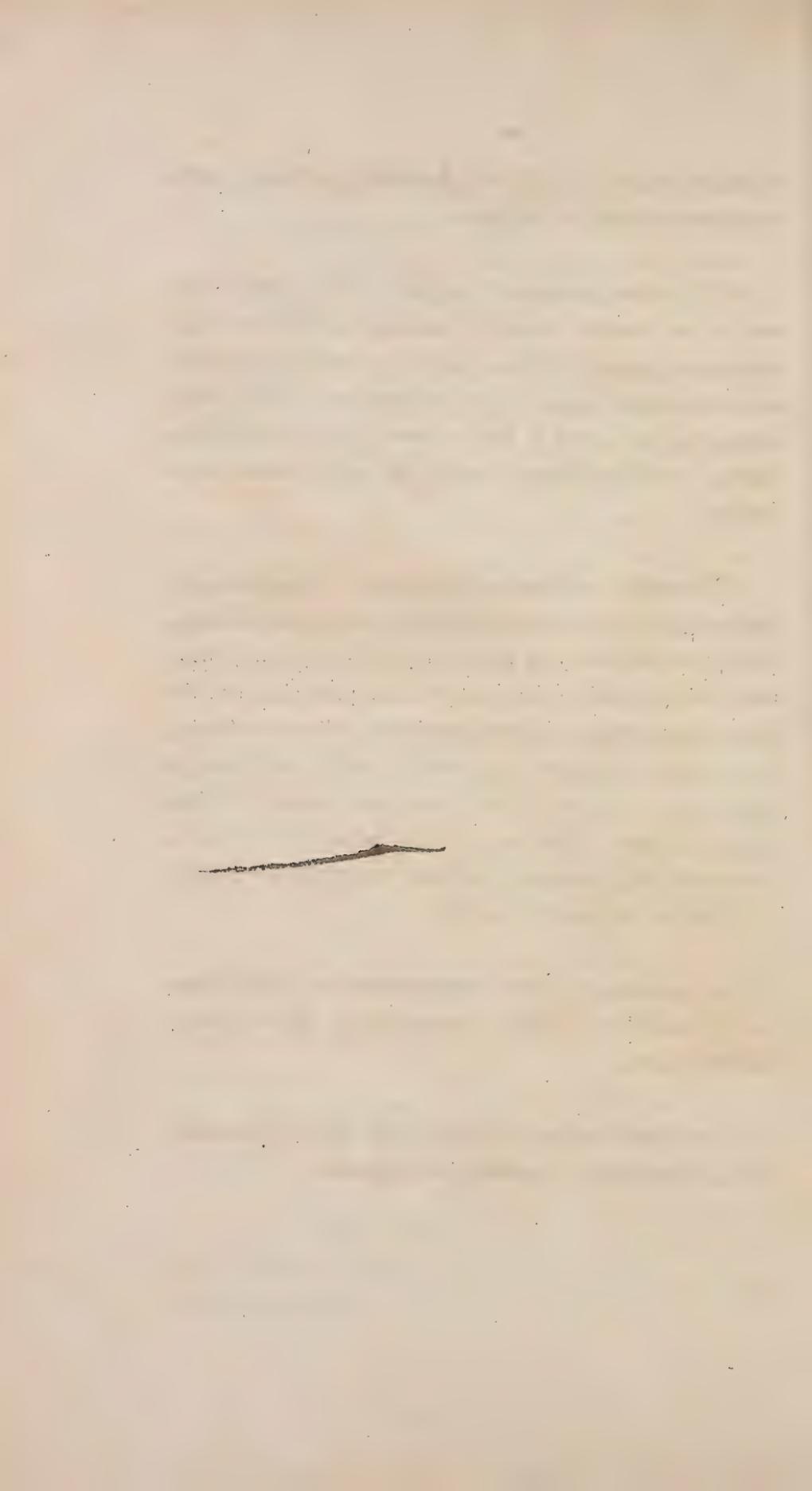
of fir, which give its flesh, very frequently, so strong a taste, as to render it unfit for the table.

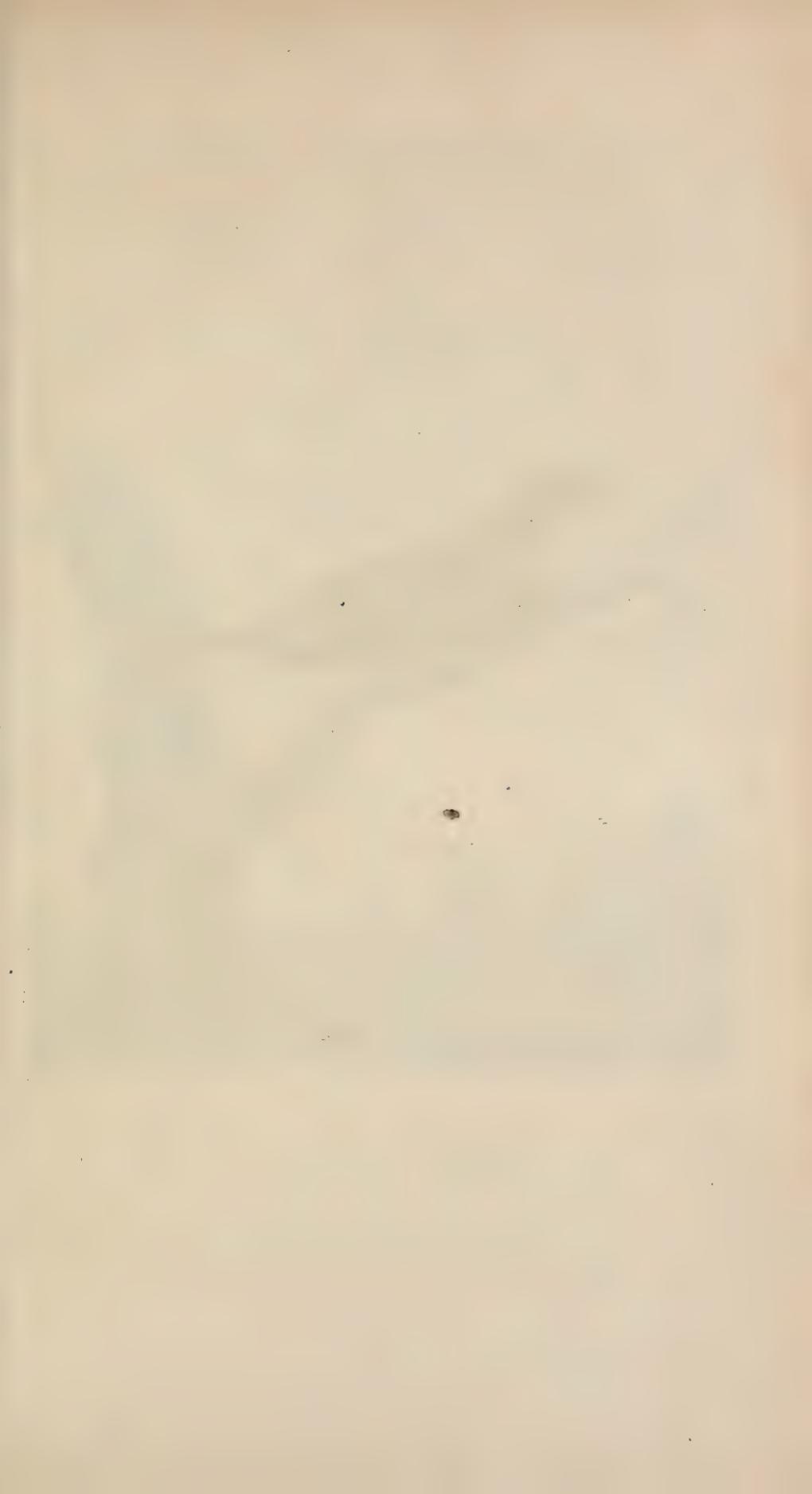
Dr. LATHAM mentions " that he is well informed, the nest of one found in Scotland, was placed on a Scotch fir ;" the female generally chooses a retired spot, and lays from eight to sixteen white eggs, spotted with yellow, on the ground among the grass, and is said to cover the eggs with leaves during her absence from the nest ; the young run as soon as hatched.

" The males and females live separate, except from the beginning of February, when the male, morning and evening, mounts on the stump of some old pine, with his tail spread and quills lowered to the feet, the neck protruded, and the head feathers ruffled. It makes a noise not unlike the whetting of a scythe, and repeats it alternately, and so loud, as to be heard a great way off, at the same time putting itself into strange attitudes. This is a call for his seraglio of females, who attend the summons ; and this he continues to the end of March or beginning of April."

Our figure was executed from an uncommon fine specimen in the collection of Mr. LEADBEATER, Brewer-Street, Golden-Square.

Its provincial names are Cock of the Wood, Mountain-Cock, Capercalze, Caperkally, or Capercaile.







Lanius Collurio.

D. S. T. & J. J. W. R. M. T. J. S. S. S. C.

LANIUS COLLURIO.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Lanius excubitor*.

SYNONYMS.

LANIUS COLLURIO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 136. 12. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 69. 11.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 72. *Ib. fol.* p. 74.
tab. C. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 131. *Latib.*
Syn. 1. p. 167. 25. *Ib. supt.* p. 52.
Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 1. p. 96.

LESSER BUTCHER-BIRD OR FLUSHER. *Albin's Birds,*
2. *tab. 14.*

THIS species is seven inches and three quarters in length, twelve in breadth, and weighs rather more than one ounce. Bill strong, with a deep notch near the tip ; irides dark hazel ; legs and claws strong, the latter particularly sharp ; tail composed of twelve feathers, the two centre ones of which are the longest. The female is rather larger, and differs so considerably in colour, that we purpose giving a figure of it in a future number.

It builds in thick low hedges, and sometimes the nest is placed on the ground, at the root of some old stump ; the nest is loosely composed of moss, roots, and wool, lined with

with hair ; it lays five or six white eggs, spotted with greyish brown, chiefly at the larger end ; the principal food of the species is beetles and other insects, these it is said to transfix on a thorn, and tearing off the body, leaves the remainder behind ; we never noticed this curious circumstance, but most writers make mention of it ; all we can say is, that of numbers which we have examined, most if not all of them, contained parts of the legs and wings ; in one killed on the second of July, were two whole beetles and some undigested parts, the latter were in the state usually found when prepared for ejecting, which this species does in the manner of the larger birds of prey.

Both parents and young are very clamorous at the approach of any person near the nest, making a loud chattering noise ; the note of the brood is very similar to that of young sparrows. It is found plentifully in the vicinities of London and Bristol ; is also met with in some parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Yorkshire, but in many other parts of this kingdom is entirely unknown.

Its provincial names are Lesser Butcher-Bird, Jack-Baker, Flusher, Shrte, and Shreek or Skreek.



Sterna Hirundo.

Pub'd by G. Graves, Pall-mall, Jan 2, 1793.

STERNA HIRUNDO.

COMMON TERN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sterna Boisi*.

SYNONYMS.

STERNA HIRUNDO. *Lin. Syft.* 1. p. 227. 2. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 807. 15.

COMMON TERN. *Br. Zool.* 2. 254. *tab.* 90. *Ib. fol.*
144. *tab.* L.* *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 361.
14. *Mont. Orn. Diet.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 2. p. 181.

THIS species is fourteen inches in length, and twenty-nine in breadth; it weighs about four ounces. Bill two inches and a half long, very sharp pointed; irides reddish; tail much forked; legs and claws slender. Colour of the sexes alike.

The COMMON is the most abundant of the Tern family; in the spring it is frequently met with at a great distance from the sea; nearly two dozen of them were seen for some days early in the year 1812, skimming over a reservoir of the Grand Surrey Canal, above Sydenham; about the same time we heard of them from several other inland parts.

It

It breeds on the sea-shore, laying its eggs among the loose stones without any nest ; the number of eggs are three or four, of an “ olivaceous brown, blotched and spotted with dusky ;” is a noisy restless bird, particularly during the breeding season.

This is a very active bird, and is seldom met with but on wing, being almost constantly in pursuit of food, which consists of insects and small fish ; on perceiving the latter it plunges with unerring aim into the water, from whence it instantly returns with its prey, and is not known either to swim or dive : it also pursues the smaller species of gulls, these, in endeavouring to escape, frequently disgorge their food, which the Tern catches before it reaches the water ; this persecuting propensity has occasioned its provincial name of Gull-Teaser ; its other provincial names are Sea-Swallow and Black-Head.

The species is dispersed over all the northern shores of Europe and America.



Alca Alle

ALCA ALLE.

LITTLE AWK.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Alca Impennis*.

SYNONYMS.

ALCA ALLE. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 211. 5.

GREENLAND DOVE. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 85.

LITTLE AWK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 233. *tab. 82.* *Ib. fol.* 137.
tab. H. 4. *fig. 1.* *Arct. Zool.* 2. *tab.* 429. *Latb. Syn.* 5. p. 327. 11.
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 795. 10. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 158.

LENGTH about nine inches. Bill strong, short, and blunt, feathered on the upper sides nearly half its length; irides reddish hazel; legs and feet strong. Colours of the sexes alike.

This is a rare species, being but very seldom met with so far south as Britain, is common in Iceland, Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Newfoundland; Mr. GOUGH, of Middleshaw, informs us, "that one was caught apparently much exhausted, in a brook which runs through his garden, Nov. 21, 1807;" and adds, "that he received accounts of its being seen generally in the same exhausted state, at various places about Kendal and Lancaster."

The

The food of this curious little bird is small fish and insects ; Bewick mentions that the one from which his figure was taken, " was caught alive on the Durham coast, and was for a short time fed on grain."

It breeds in Greenland and the other afore-named places, " and is said to lay two eggs ; they are larger than those of a pigeon, of a bluish white colour."

About the latter end of May 1812, a fine specimen of *Alca arctica* (the Puffin) was taken on the Thames near Chelsea, by a fisherman, who kept it alive for some days ; we are at loss to conceive by what unaccountable accident this bird should have wandered so far from the sea coast ; as the nearest place to which the species is known to resort, is the cliffs of Dover.





